

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are all the claims pending in the application, of which claims 1-7 have been considered by the Examiner. Claims 8-11 are withdrawn from consideration. Applicants have herein added claims 12-19.

Formalities

Applicants thank the Examiner for accepting the Drawings filed on February 1, 2006. Applicants also thank the Examiner for acknowledging the claim to foreign priority and receipt of the certified copies of the Priority Documents.

The Examiner has not considered four of the five references cited with the Information Disclosure Statement of February 1, 2005 because Applicants did not provide a copy of each cited foreign patent document as these documents were listed in the International Search Report. Applicants have concurrently submitted herewith copies of these documents as requested by the Examiner, along with English machine translations of the Abstracts thereof.

The title is objected to by the Examiner because it is not descriptive. Applicants have herein amended the title in a manner believed to overcome the objection.

Claim 1 is objected to and Applicants have amended claim 1 to overcome the objection.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Bannai et al. (U.S. Patent 6,503,656; hereinafter "Bannai"). Applicants traverse this rejection for at least the following reasons.

Bannai discloses irradiating the heat sealed area with an electron beam to form a cross-linked structure. On the other hand, claim 1 as amended recites that the cross-linked structure is formed in at least a second area inside the first heat-sealable area.

The cross-linked structure of Bannai is intentionally not formed beyond the heat-sealed area of the resin layer because “irradiation of a battery power source with an electron beam causes decomposition of electrolytic solution” (Bannai, column 1, lines 65-67). The problem with this arrangement is that it will not prevent the short circuits described in paragraph [0010] of the present Application Publication. The claimed invention solves this problem by providing a unique combination that includes a cross-linked structure formed in an area of the heat-sealed resin layer inside the heat-sealable outer periphery area and where the battery element contacts the laminate film.

Accordingly, it is submitted that claim 1 is patentable over Bannai because Bannai fails to teach all of the features of claim 1. Claims 2-7 should be patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

Added Claims

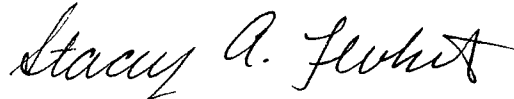
Applicants have herein added claims 12-19. These claims are supported by the specification.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: June 30, 2009